

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 7, 33, 37-40, and 65 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-22, 29-30, 32-34, 37-40, 43-49, and 60-69 are now pending in this application.

General Comments

Prior to addressing the details of the Office Action, Applicants point out that the present Office Action appears to include copies of pages 2-4 of the Office Action previously mailed on May 18, 2007, in the present case. Applicants have not addressed these pages in the present Amendment and Reply.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-22, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40, 43-49, and 60-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosain (U.S. Patent No. 7,092,696) in view of Hamilton (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 20020177431) and further in view of Haverinen (U.S. Patent No. 20070060106).

Claim 7 is in independent form and has been amended to recite a combination including, among other elements,

*receiving a data signal wirelessly at the network access node;
forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node;
...*

wherein the network access node is a portable, handheld device having a display.

Claim 7 involves, among other steps, using a portable, handheld device to both receive a data signal wirelessly and forward the data signal wirelessly. None of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest these features.

The examiner acknowledged in the Office Action that “Hosain fails to explicitly disclose receiving a data signal wirelessly at the network access node.” Hamilton and Haverinen likewise fail to disclose these features, alone or in any proper combination with Hosain.

For example, Hamilton discloses a mobile station 12 that may wirelessly communicate with a base station subsystem 14. (¶ [0031]) However, the mobile station 12 does not both receive and forward data signals wirelessly, as recited in independent claim 7. Furthermore, while Hamilton may disclose other devices capable of wireless communications (e.g., Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN) 32), none of these are portable or handheld devices.

Haverinen likewise fails to disclose these features. Haverinen is directed to authentication of mobile nodes connecting to mobile IP networks (¶ [0002]) and discloses a communication system 10 where a mobile node MT may communicate with an access point AP (¶¶ [0172]-[0174]). However, similar to the mobile station of Hamilton discussed above, the mobile node MT of Haverinen does not both receive and forward data signals wirelessly, as recited in claim 7. Haverinen does not disclose using a portable, handheld device to both receive a data signal wirelessly and forward the data signal wirelessly.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited combination of references fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 7, and corresponding dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13, is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 17, 29, 33 (as amended), 43, and 65 (as amended) include similar limitations to those included in claim 7, and are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to

those for which claim 7 is patentable. For example, claim 17 recites a combination including, among other limitations,

means for receiving a data signal wirelessly at the portable device;
[and]

means for forwarding the data signal wirelessly from the portable device to a network user node;

Claim 29 recites a combination including, among other limitations,

receiving a data signal wirelessly at the access point; [and]

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node using a wireless local area network (WLAN) communication standard;

...

wherein the access point is a portable, handheld device having a display.

Claim 33 recites a combination including, among other limitations,

receiving a data signal wirelessly at the access point; [and]

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node using a wireless local area network (WLAN) communication standard;

...

wherein the access point is a portable, handheld device having a display.

Claim 43 recites a combination including, among other limitations,

An access point, comprising:

a receive circuit configured to receive a data signal [from an Internet service provider]; [and]

a transmit circuit configured to transmit the data signal over a wireless local area network (WLAN) to a network user node via a network access node in wireless communication with the network user node;

...

wherein *the access point is a portable device.*

Claim 65 recites a combination including, among other limitations,

receiving a data signal wirelessly at the network access node;
[and]

forwarding the data signal wirelessly to the network user node;

...

wherein *the network access node is a portable device.*

The combination of Hosain, Hamilton, and Haverinen fails to disclose the above-cited features of independent claims 17, 29, 33, 43, and 65. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 17, 29, 33, 43, and 65, and corresponding dependent claims 15-16, 18-22, 30, 32, 34, 37-40, 44-49, 60-64, and 66-69, is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date /06-09-2008/

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 319-7306
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

By /Matthew J. Swietlik/

Matthew J. Swietlik
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 58,428